

That which is claimed is:

1. An article for easy identification, classification, and inventory tracking, the improvement comprising said article having a first state and a second state, a first perception and a second perception, said first perception indicating said first state and said second perception indicating said second state.

2. An article according to Claim 1, wherein said first state is as an unused article and said second state is as a used article.

3. An article according to Claim 1, wherein said article has a plurality of surfaces and wherein said first perception is provided by a first identifiable characteristic located on one said surface and said second perception is provided by a second identifiable characteristic located on another of said surfaces.

4. An article according to Claim 3, wherein said first identifiable characteristic is a first color and said second identifiable characteristic is a second color.

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5. An article according to Claim 1, wherein a plurality of said articles are contained together in bulk and wherein said articles are aligned such that said first identifiable characteristics are aligned along one side of the packaging.

6. An article according to Claim 5, wherein the packaging encloses said articles with an exterior surface and wherein a portion of the exterior surface that is proximal to the alignment of said first identifiable characteristics contains a marking.

7. An article comprising a first state and a second state, and a first perception and a second perception, said first perception indicating said first state and said second perception indicating said second state.

8. An article according to Claim 7, wherein said first and second perceptions are incorporated into said article during manufacturing of said article.

9. An article according to Claim 7, wherein said first and second perceptions are incorporated into said article after the manufacturing of said article.

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10. An article according to Claim 7, wherein said article further comprises a means for changing said first perception into said second perception when said article changes to a different state.

11. An article according to Claim 10, wherein said means for changing said first perception is comprised of the chemical composition of at least a portion of the material comprising said article.

12. An article having a first state and a second state, a first perception and a second perception, comprising:

a means for indicating said first state from said second state wherein said first perception indicates said first state and said second perception indicates said second state.

13. An article according to Claim 12, wherein said article is an elongated fluorescent light bulb having two ends and each said end having an end surface thereon.

14. An article according to Claim 13, wherein said

first perception is provided by an identifiable characteristic located on one of said end surfaces.

15. An article according to Claim 14, wherein said first perception is provided by a first identifiable characteristic located on one of said end surfaces and said second perception is provided by a second identifiable characteristic located on said second end surface.

16. An article according to Claim 12, wherein said first identifiable characteristic comprises a symbol.

17. A method for identifying, classifying, and inventory tracking goods having at least a first state and a second state, comprising the steps of:

providing at least one article having at least a first state and a second state; and

providing each said article with a first perception indicating said first state and a second perception indicating said second state.

18. An article according to Claim 17, wherein said article has a plurality of surfaces and wherein said first perception is provided by an identifiable characteristic comprising the shape of one of said surfaces.

19. An article according to Claim 18, wherein the shape of said surface comprising said identifiable characteristic is a topographical change to said surface.

20. An article according to Claim 18, wherein the shape of said surface comprising said identifiable characteristic is a change to the perimeter of said surface.

21. An article according to Claim 1, wherein said first state is as an unused article and said second state is as a used article.

22. An article according to Claim 1, wherein said article has a material thereon comprised of two overlapping surfaces, wherein said first surface representing said first state and said second layer representing said second state, said article having means for revealing said second state.

23. An article according to Claim 22, wherein said

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first surface is a scratch off coating and said means for revealing is provided by said scratch off coating.

24. An article according to Claim 22, wherein said first and second surfaces are releasably adhered together and said means for revealing said second state is provided by removal of said first surface.

25. An article according to Claim 1, wherein said first perception is provided by a first identifiable characteristic and said second perception is provided by a second identifiable characteristic.

26. An article according to Claim 25, wherein said first identifiable characteristic is a first color and said second identifiable characteristic is a second color.

27. An article according to Claim 25, wherein first and second characteristics are provided by a material capable of changing color.

28. An article according to Claim 25, wherein said first and second characteristics are provided by a material capable of changing texture.

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Serial 2* 29. An article according to Claim 27, wherein said material fades from a first color to a second color over a predetermined period of time.

30. An article according to Claim 28, wherein said material is constructed and arranged to change color in response to a stimulus provided by the use of the article.

31. An article according to Claim 1, wherein the amount of said change is measured by the amount of use of said article and therefore the amount of stimulus provided.

32. An article according to Claim 1, wherein said first perception is provided by a first identifiable characteristic that differentiates said first state from said second state.

Serial 3 33. An article according to Claim 25, wherein said first identifiable characteristic is provided by a flag.

34. An article according to Claim 33, wherein said flag is comprised of a filament.

35. An article according to Claim 33, wherein said flag is comprised of a plastic material.

36. An article according to Claim 33, wherein said flag is comprised of a paper material.

37. An article according to Claim 33, wherein said flag is comprised of a metallic material.

38. An article according to Claim 25, wherein said first identifiable characteristic is provided by a cap.

39. An article according to Claim 38, wherein said cap is comprised of a plastic material.

40. An article according to Claim 38, wherein said cap is comprised of a paper material.

41. An article according to Claim 38, wherein said cap is comprised of a fiberboard material.

42. An article according to Claim 25, wherein said first identifiable characteristic is provided by a depressable button.

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43. A method for identifying, classifying, and inventory tracking bulk packaged goods having at least a first state and a second state, comprising the steps of:

providing at least two bulk packages of goods wherein at least one package is of a first state and at least one package is of a second state;

providing said bulk packages of goods with a first perception indicating said first state and a second perception indicating said second state; and

differentiating said at least one package of said first state from said at least one package of said second state.

44. A method according to Claim 43, wherein said first perception is provided by a first identifiable characteristic and said second perception is provided by a second identifiable characteristic.

45. A method according to Claim 44, further comprising the steps of :

providing a multi-ply label on said bulk packaging,
wherein a first layer represents said first
identifiable characteristic and a second label
represents a second identifiable characteristic.

46. A method according to Claim 45, further comprising the steps of:

removing said first layer from said multi-ply label;
and
applying said first layer to said bulk package to seal
said package.